

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KINSHASA 5223

EXDIS

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS MILI PFOR CG
SUBJECT: REORGANIZATION OF ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES (FAZ): BABIA PLAN

REF: (A) STATE 115663 (B) STATE 123297 (C) KINSHASA 4854

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSION WITH CZAMISH 1 JUN 77
GENERAL BABIA ADDRESSED POST SHABA IMMEDIATE, MID-RANGE AND
LONG-RANGE PLANS FOR FAZ REORGANIZATION AND DEFENSE NEEDS OF
ZAIRE. HIS PLANS FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE CALL FOR THE MAJORITY
OF FORCES REMAINING IN SHABA UNTIL CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IS
CAPABLE OF AGAIN ASSUMING CONTROL WHILE AT SAME TIME MOVING
AGAINST PRP IN EASTERN ZAIRE. MID-RANGE PLANS VISUALIZE THAT
A TWO-YEAR REORGANIZATION ALONG LINES REPORTED REF (C). IN THIS
REGARD, HE ANTICIPATES USING RESIDUAL FY 77 (AND POSSIBLY FY 78)
FMS CREDITS IN SUPPORT OF THIS REORGANIZATION. ADDITIONALLY
BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU DESIRE THAT SPECIAL STAFF (BELGIAN/
FRENCH OFFICERS) REMAIN IN BEING. HIS LONG-RANGE PLANS AT THIS
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TIME ENVISION THE MODERNIZATION OF THE FORCE STRUCTURE ALONG
LINES OF ROCKWELL II REPORT, BUT SEES A NEED FOR A PAUSE IN
THE INITIATION OF PROGRAM UNTIL HE GETS THE FAZ HOUSE IN ORDER.
END SUMMARY

1. IMMEDIATE PLANS

A. GENERAL BABIA MENTIONED THAT THERE WAS STILL MUCH TO

BE DONE IN SHABA; I.E., MOPPING UP OPERATIONS, CARING FOR THE CIVILIAN POPULATION (FOOD AND MEDICINE) WHICH IS SLOWLY TRICKLING BACK TO THE VILLAGES FROM THE BUSH, REINSTITUTION OF CIVILIAN CONTROL, ETC. ACCORDINGLY, OPERATIONAL HEADQUARTERS KOLWEZI WILL REMAIN IN BEING ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT CERTAIN HOW LONG GENERAL SINGHA WILL REMAIN IN COMMAND SINCE HE HAS OTHER IMPORTANT DUTIES.

B. THE 11TH BRIGADE (IKUKU) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN SHABA AND WILL ESTABLISH ITS COMMAND POST AT KASAJI WITH SUPORDINATE ELEMENTS AT DILOLO, SANDOA AND KAPANGA. IN CONNECTION WITH DILOLO, TROOPS WILL NOT BE POSITIONED IMMEDIATELY ASTRIDE THE ANGOLAN BORDER TO PRECLUDE ANY PROVOCATIONS, BUT RATHER WILL BE LOCATED SOME 30 KMS FROM BORDER.

C. THE 12TH BRIGADE (MULIMBI) WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KOLWEZI AREA WITH SUBORDINATE ELEMENTS AT NZILO I AND NZOLI III. THE MOROCCANS WHO ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART KINSHASA 3 JUNE VIA AIR ZAIRE DC 10 WILL LEAVE THEIR HEAVY EQUIPMENT (VEHICLES AND MORTARS) AT NZILO I IN THE EVENT THEIR RETURN IS REQUIRED. ONE FAZ COMPANY WILL GUARD THE EQUIPMENT AND BELGIAN G4 CURRENTLY MAKING PLANS FOR AN EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE TEAM TO PRECLUDE DETERIORATION WHILE IN STORAGE. MOROCCAN TROOPS ARE LEAVING WITH ONLY INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS. THEY WILL SPEND ONE DAY IN LUBUMBASHI AND ONE DAY IN KINSHASA VISITING POINTS OF INTEREST AS A BIT OF REST AND RECUPERATION.

D. THE 14TH BRIGADE (DIKUTA WHO IS CURRENTLY HOSPITALIZED) WILL MOVE TO SECTOR TANGANYIKA FOR COORDINATED OPERATIONS AGAINST PRP. TROOPS CURRENTLY LOCATED IN THAT AREA WILL BE WITHDRAWN TO KAMINA WHERE THEY WILL UNDERGO RETRAINING AND REORGANIZATION.

E. THE 13TH BRIGADE, CURRENTLY IN TRAINING AT KITONA AND PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR IMMEDIATE MOVEMENT TO KAMINA, WILL NOW CONTINUE TRAINING AT KITONA FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX MONTHS.
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2. MID-RANGE PLANS

A. BOTH GENERAL BABIA AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU DESIRE THAT THE SPECIAL STAFF REMAIN IN BEING (BELGIAN/FRENCH OFFICERS) UNTIL REORGANIZATION IS COMPLETE. THIS IMPLIES A MINIMUM TWO-YEAR TENURE. PRECISE NUMBERS, TOGETHER WITH FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ARE UNDER STUDY AS WELL AS SUBJECT TO GOB AND GOF APPROVAL. OPTIONS INCLUDE COMPLETE INTEGRATION INTO DDN STAFF OR A SEPARATE ENTITY IN HIS "CABINET" ENPOWERED TO SPEAK IN HIS NAME. WHATEVER FORM EMERGES, BABIA REMARKED, THESE ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE AVAILABLE TO GOZ TO INSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE PROGRAM.

B. DETAILED ORGANIZATIONAL WIRING DIAGRAMS OF THE ENTIRE FORCE STRUCTURE, FOR PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL, ARE EXPECTED TO BE READY WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. BABIA REMARKED THAT THE BRIGADE WILL BE LIGHT, HOWEVER INDICATIONS ARE IT WILL CALL FOR APPROXIMATELY 200 VEHICLES PER BRIGADE.

C. ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT WILL BE REQUIRED IN THIS CONNECTION, HE ALSO MENTIONED URGENT NEED FOR A NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND/CONTROL NETWORK. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IN 1974

DDN WAS IN DISCUSSION WITH R/F COMMUNICATIONS BUT THE PROJECT HAD TO BE ABANDONED BECAUSE OF LACK OF FUNDS.

D. BABIA NEXT FOCUSED ON INFRASTRUCTURE (BARRACKS, SERVICE SCHOOLS, ETC.) STATING THAT HE HIGHLIGHTED THIS CRITICAL PROBLEM TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD DURING THE LATTER'S VISIT LAST YEAR.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KINSHASA 5223

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E. HE QUERIED CZAMISH ON FEASIBILITY OF USING RESIDUAL FY77 AND POSSIBLY FY78 FMS FUNDS ON SUCH INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS. CZAMISH RESPONDED THAT FMS CREDITS WERE PROVIDED BY USG FOR THE ACQUISITION OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND THE ABOVE PROJECTS FALL IN THAT CATEGORY AND ARE WORTHY OF CONSIDERATION, BUT THAT SUCH A REQUEST WOULD HAVE TO BE FLESHED OUT AND FINAL USG APPROVAL MUST BE GIVEN AT WASHINGTON LEVEL.

F. BABIA RETORTED THAT HE HAS NOT AS YET SURFACED THESE IDEAS WITH THE PRESIDENT--THAT HE WOULD DO SO LATTER ON IN THE EVENING. HE ADDED THAT AS A RESULT OF SHABA HE HAS CONCLUDED THAT FAZ HAS TOO MANY PEOPLE, THAT THEY ARE POORLY TRAINED AND THAT THEY ARE A BURDEN TO THE DOD BUDGET. HIS OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT TWO YEARS ARE TO HAVE LIGHT BRIGADES (1500-2000 MEN), WELL EQUIPPED, WELL TRAINED WELL PAID AND WELL HOUSED. HE CONCLUDED BY STATING THAT AFTER HE SEEKS MOBUTU'S VIEWS WE WILL CONDUCT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THESE POINTS.

COMMENT: BABIA HAD AN AIR OF CONFIDENCE THAT HE COULD CONVINCE
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THE PRESIDENT OF NECESSITY FOR THIS COURSE OF ACTION. CZAMISH
FEELS THAT BABIA USED HIM AS A SOUNDING BOARD TO ARTICULATE AND
CRYSTALLIZE HIS THOUGHTS PRIOR TO PRESENTING THEM TO MOBUTU.

3. FUTURE PLANS

A. BABIA NEXT FOCUSED ON THE GROUND FORCE UPGRADE
PACKAGE. HE STILL FEELS THAT IT IS A RATIONAL PACKAGE AND MUSED
WOULD THAT IT WERE IN PLACE PRIOR TO 8 MARCH. IN ANY EVENT,
DURING THE TWO-YEAR REORGANIZATION PHASE IT MAY BE TOO LUXURIOUS
(\$20 MILLION ARMORED CARS ALONE WHICH ONLY GIVES HIM ONE BATTALION
--COMPETITION FOR THE TRAINED CADRE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE). ACCORD-
INGLY, WHILE HE DESIRES TO PROCEED WITH THE PROGRAM AT SOME FUTURE
DATE HE WOULD LIKE A PAUSE SO THAT MONIES COULD BE USED FOR HIS
IMMEDIATE CRITICAL NEEDS. IN FACT, HE ADDED, WELL-TRAINED BRIGADES
WOULD BE A GREAT ASSIST AS BASIC BUILDING BLOCS TO FUTURE FORCE
MODERNIZATION.

B. HE CONCLUDED THAT PERHAPS IN A YEAR OR SO WE COULD
RESTDY MODERNIZATION IN THE ROCKWELL FASHION BASED ON EXISTING
CONDITIONS THE THREAT AT THE TIME.

4. COMMENT:

A. IT APPEARS THAT THE INITIAL POOR SHOWING OF FAZ DURING
THE SHABA INVASION IS CAUSE FOR GRAVE CONCERN TO BABIA. HE
CONTINUOUSLY MENTIONS THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW HOW THE ARMY
DETERIORATED TO SUCH A STATE SINCE HE LEFT IT TO WORK AT THE
PRESIDENCY SOME 6 YEARS AGO. HE IS PRESSING HARD FOR A TWO-YEAR
QUICK FIX SO THAT A CREDIBLE FORCE CAPABLE OF BEING LOGISTICALLY
SUPPORTED IS IN BEING TO DEAL IFFICIENTLY AND DECISIVELY WITH
FUTURE INCURSIONS OF THIS SORT.

B. FINALLY HE REALIZES HE NEEDS THE IMMEDIATE AND CONTINUED
PERSONNEL AND MATERIEL ASSISTANCE OF THE BELGIANS, FRENCH AND
US IF HE IS TO SUCCEED. HE REMARKS CONTINUOUSLY THAT HE DESIRES
CLOSE COORDINATION AND OPEN DIALOGUE AMONG THE THREE MILITARY
MISSION CHIEFS TO INSURE A COORDINATED EFFORT AND TO PRECLUDE
DUPLICATION. HE HAS SAID THAT HE WILL KEEP US INFORMED OF ALL
GOZ REQUESTS TO EACH COOPERATING COUNTRY.
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5. RECOMMENDATIONS: IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE THAT
REQUEST FOR JEEPS REF (B), SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL
BABIA GETS MOBUTU'S AGREEMENT ON A REORGANIZATION PLAN. THE
DEPARTMENT SHOULD ALSO HOLD OFF ON CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS

ON THE UPGRADE PACKAGE UNTIL WE KNOW THE FINAL SHAPE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION ON HIS SHORT TERM FORCE STRUCTURE. WE ARE ENCOURAGED BY BABIA'S RATIONAL VIEW OF WHAT IS REQUIRED AND BY HIS SENSIBLE RECOMMENDATION TO INITIATE A PAUSE IN THE ROCKWELL MODERNIZATION PROPOSALS. WE FURTHER BELIEVE THAT IF MOBUTU AGREES WITH BABIA, THAT THE USG SHOULD RESPOND QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF HELPING ZAIRE IN ITS TWO-YEAR REORGAIZATION PLAN THROUGH ASSISTANCE IN TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS, TRAINING AND INFRASTRUCTURE.
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